You Should Read

It's a precursor to Catch-22, in many ways - set in the decaying Austro-Hungarian empire in World War I, and featuring a protagonist that's either amazingly stupid, lucky, brilliant, or a combination of all of them - it's up to the readers to decide.

The "shtick" to the man "proto-punk vibes are strong in this one, and the satire more like a broadsword than a rapier.

Sadly unfinished, but a masterpiece of Czech literature, that will make you laugh, cringe, and wonder how anyone survived the Great War.

In 1961, an ex-airman named William Peter Blatty appeared on the popular game show "You Bet Your Life". He won $10,000. When Groucho Marx asked what he'd do with it, he said it would go towards funding a new book.

I worry
that as living memory fades
we forget
how bad things really were
and the lessons we learned
on the
real horrors
of things like
war
famine
pestilence
authoritarianism
and we denigrate
the things we tried
to put into place to stop them
in our complacency.

Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 3/28/2025
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dumb stuff in my offsise

Words of wisdom from a slap bracelet obtained at a conference.

I do, bracelet.
I do.

GOOD FRIEND FOR JESUS SAKE FORBEARE,
TO DIGG THE DUST ENCLOASED HEARE.
BLESTE BE Ye MAN Yt SPARES THES STONES,
AND CURST BE HE Yt MOVES MY BONES.

This is Shakespeare's gravestone, and somebody's ass got curst.

There was an old story for a long time that a doctor by the name of Frank Chambers stole Shakespeare's skull back in 1794 and sold it.

In 2016, researchers got permission to use ground-penetrating radar on the grave, and found the body - minus its skull, whether or not it was Doc Frank, it didn't walk away on its meadible, and nobody really knows where it might have ended up.

A friend of mine helped me discover a new solitaire game ↳

Scoundrel

(by Zach Gage and Kurt Bieg)

Work your way through a dungeon, as represented by the deck. Draw four at a time, and play three of the four carrying over into the next. Try not to lose all Zo of your hit points!

Card values determine their strength.

Full rules can be found here:

elementalcode.itch.io/scoundrel

Flea circuses were a real thing, and really used fleas. Some exist today that still do.

They were a way of showing off metalcrafting skill by leashing fleas →

(Though the real trick was applying the clown makeup properly.)

a playlist for you for when you're needing to feel better.

"Fanfare for the Common Man"/Aaron Copland
"Touch of Grey" / The Grateful Dead
"These Are Days" / 10,000 Maniacs
"Colors Flying High" / Lyn
"Dreams" / The Cranberries
"Get On Your Feet" / Gloria Estefan
"Don't Give Up "Til It's Over" / The Dubliners
"Lookin' Out My Back Door" / Creedence Clearwater Revival
"Carry On" / Fun.
"Here Comes The Sun" / The Beatles
"Waiting On the World To Change" / Taj Mahal, Keb' Mo'

bad words

(that aren't slurs)

insurance influencer
furbaby puce
content bitchin'
GOAT (as an acronym)
tendency consider
membrane o'clock
synergize
homoousios nasal
cemetery game-changer
utilize empower
heuristic
tardigrade management
metrics

There's a reason they're called FUNiculars! They're rad!

Only seven left in the US to try, though. (And Pittsburgh has two of them)

Though "crappyniculars" has a ring to it.

A creator named Maya Claire made an overlay for Wikipedia that lets you walk through it as if it were a museum (in VR, too!)

This is a real place,
about an hour away
from me.

I keep imagining
a Stan Hill-kind of place,
with things
foaming the
streets
wearing
human skins.

Holy shit, do I miss

MAD MAGAZINE

a staple of my upbringing
(sorry, mom.)

We are all poorer for having lost it.
(though it is funny to see how its
shitty competitor made good as
Cracked.com)
Compilations still pop up now
and again,
but the times cry out for
their brand of satire.

One of my favorite classic articles-

which can be found online.
12 typos actually fielded a real
team, as did Florida Tech (of course)
I like the alternative, 2-Man Squamish,
where the object of the game is to lose.

Captain America
and
Superman
are two of my
favorite characters-
when written correctly.
Not for the flag
waving, or the powers-
because a relentlessly kind
and upstanding person, devoted to
doing the right thing whatever the
cost, is far more fantastic and
aspirational than being able to
fly or punch Nazis.

Writers especially have a problem
with Superman, whose powers often
get in the way of his humanity-
which is what really makes
him heroic.

"Ermitage Rock in an imaginary landscape".
1855.

In addition
to his
brilliant
writing,
Victor
Hugo
was quite
good at
painting.

His work is moody,
and surprisingly
avant-garde for
its period,
experimenting with
abstraction well
before it was
a thing.

"Planet", 1866